

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
  - a first laser oscillator generating a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength at which an absorption coefficient to the processing object is  $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  or more;
  - means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the first laser beam;
  - a second laser oscillator generating a second continuous wave laser beam;
  - means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the second laser beam to overlap with the beam spot of the first laser beam; and
  - means for controlling a relative position of the beam spot of the first laser beam and the beam spot of the second laser beam to the processing object.
2. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.
3. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.
4. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the beam spot of the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
5. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the beam spot of the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.
6. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the first laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.
7. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein the second laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an

Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

8. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,  
5 wherein:

the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to a surface of the processing object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$  when W1 is defined as a length  
10 of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the first laser beam.

9. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein:

the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to a surface of the processing object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$  when W2 is defined as a length  
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the second laser beam.

10. A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:  
a first laser oscillator generating a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength  
of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light;  
means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the first laser  
beam;

a second laser oscillator generating a second continuous wave laser beam;  
means for controlling a shape and a position of a beam spot of the second laser  
beam to overlap with the beam spot of the first laser beam; and  
means for controlling a relative position of the beam spot of the first laser  
beam and the beam spot of the second laser beam to a processing object.

11. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

12. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
35 wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.

13. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the beam spot of the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or  
linear.

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14. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the beam spot of the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or  
linear.

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15. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the first laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an Ar  
laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser,  
a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire  
laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

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16. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the second laser oscillator is selected from the group consisting of an  
Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a  
YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

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17. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein:  
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is  
transparent to the first laser beam; and

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an incident angle "φ 1" of the first laser beam to a surface of the processing  
object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$  when W1 is defined as a length  
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the first laser beam.

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18. A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein:  
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is  
transparent to the second laser beam; and  
an incident angle "φ 2" of the second laser beam to a surface of the processing  
object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$  when W2 is defined as a length  
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot of the second laser beam.

19. A laser irradiation method comprising the step of;  
irradiating a processing object with a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength at which an absorption coefficient to the processing object is  $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  or  
5 more and a second continuous wave laser beam,  
wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a beam spot formed on a surface of the processing object by the first laser beam and a beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam are overlapped.

10 20. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

15 21. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.

22. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

20 23. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

25 24. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

30 35 25. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

26. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein:  
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is  
5 transparent to the first laser beam; and  
an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the processing  
object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan (W1/2d)$  when W1 is defined as a length  
of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the  
processing object by the first laser beam.

10 27. A laser irradiation method according to claim 19,  
wherein:  
the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is  
transparent to the second laser beam; and  
15 an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the  
processing object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan (W2/2d)$  when W2 is defined  
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of  
the processing object by the second laser beam.

20 28. A laser irradiation method comprising the step of;  
irradiating a processing object with a first pulsed laser beam having a  
wavelength of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light and a  
second continuous wave laser beam,  
wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a  
25 beam spot formed on a surface of the processing object by the first laser beam and a  
beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam are  
overlapped.

29. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
30 wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

30. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
wherein the second laser beam has a wavelength of fundamental wave.

35 31. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,

wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

5           32. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
              wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

10          33. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
              wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

15          34. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
              wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser.

20          35. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
              wherein:  
              the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and  
              an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the processing object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan(W1/2d)$  when W1 is defined as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of the processing object by the first laser beam.

30          36. A laser irradiation method according to claim 28,  
              wherein:  
              the processing object comprises a substrate having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and  
              an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the processing object satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan(W2/2d)$  when W2 is defined as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of

the processing object by the second laser beam.

37. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of;

5 forming a semiconductor film on a insulating surface; and  
irradiating the semiconductor film with a first pulsed laser beam having a wavelength at which an absorption coefficient to the semiconductor film is  $1 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  or more and a second continuous wave laser beam to crystallize the semiconductor film,

10 wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a beam spot formed on a surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam and a beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam are overlapped.

15 38. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,

wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

20 39. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,

wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of the fundamental wave.

40. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,

25 wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

41. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,

30 wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular or linear.

42. A laser irradiation method according to claim 37,  
wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the  
35 group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a

$\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  laser, a  $\text{YVO}_4$  laser, a YLF laser, a  $\text{YAlO}_3$  laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

5           43. A laser irradiation method according to claim 37,  
wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from  
the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a  $\text{CO}_2$  laser, a YAG laser, a  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  laser, a  
 $\text{YVO}_4$  laser, a YLF laser, a  $\text{YAlO}_3$  laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a  
helium-cadmium laser

10          44. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,  
wherein:  
the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface  
and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and  
15          an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the  
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan(W_1/2d)$  when  $W_1$  is defined  
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of  
the semiconductor film by the first laser beam.

20          45. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
37,  
wherein:  
the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface  
and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and  
25          an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the  
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan(W_2/2d)$  when  $W_2$  is defined  
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of  
the semiconductor film by the second laser beam.

30          46. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps  
of;  
forming a semiconductor film on a insulating surface; and  
irradiating the semiconductor film with a first pulsed laser beam having a  
wavelength of visible light or a shorter wavelength than that of visible light and a  
35         second continuous wave laser beam to crystallize the semiconductor film,

wherein when the first laser beam and the second laser beam are irradiated, a beam spot formed on a surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam and a beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam are overlapped.

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47. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,

wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of second harmonic.

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48. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,

wherein the first laser beam has a wavelength of the fundamental wave.

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49. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,

wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the first laser beam is elliptical, rectangular, or linear.

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50. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 46,

wherein the beam spot formed on the surface of the semiconductor film by the second laser beam is elliptical, rectangular or linear.

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51. A laser irradiation method according to claim 46,

wherein the first laser beam is emitted from a laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, an excimer laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, a glass laser, a ruby laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, a copper vapor laser, and a gold vapor laser.

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52. A laser irradiation method according to claim 46,

wherein the second laser beam is emitted from laser oscillator selected from the group consisting of an Ar laser, a Kr laser, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser, a YAG laser, a Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> laser, a YVO<sub>4</sub> laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO<sub>3</sub> laser, an alexandrite laser, a Ti: sapphire laser, and a helium-cadmium laser

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53. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
46,

wherein:

the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface  
5 and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the first laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 1$ " of the first laser beam to the surface of the  
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 1 \geq \arctan(W1/2d)$  when  $W1$  is defined  
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of  
the semiconductor film by the first laser beam.

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54. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim  
46,

wherein:

the semiconductor is formed over a substrate comprising the insulating surface  
15 and having a thickness of "d" which is transparent to the second laser beam; and

an incident angle " $\phi 2$ " of the second laser beam to the surface of the  
semiconductor film satisfies an inequality of  $\phi 2 \geq \arctan(W2/2d)$  when  $W2$  is defined  
as a length of a major axis or a minor axis of the beam spot formed on the surface of  
the semiconductor film by the second laser beam.

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